

**REMARKS**

Claims 19-35 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Specification, the Examiner contends that the terminology “common channel signaling” is unclear. Applicant’s respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection. The term “common channel signaling” is sufficiently clear as detailed in the specification, for example, at Figure 2, reference numeral 6, and the corresponding portion of the specification. The Examiner is kindly reminded that the Applicant is allowed to be his/her own lexicographer.

Claims 19-35 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Hayball. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Unlike the connection of exchanges 32 and 34 of Hayball, in which the exchanges communicate to a signal transfer point 358, which provides a signal routing function and is coupled to the signaling server 352, the connection is not permanent (see, for example, Fig. 3 and the corresponding specification). In the claimed invention, on the other hand, two transmission links are connected by a data line 12 and at least two information channels 5 are permanently allocated to one another via the data line 12. See, for example, Figure 2 and the corresponding specification of the instant application.

Entry of this amendment after-final is appropriate since the addition of the term “permanently” to the claims places the application in condition for allowance, and since this term has been previously examined on the merits (see, for example, the claims in the Preliminary Amendment).

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no.449122026100. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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